

REMARKS

1) Summary of Prosecution

Original claims 1 to 39 are pending in the application. Claims 5-9; 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32-35 and 37 are objected to, and the remaining claims are rejected.

2) Claim Rejections 35 USC 103(a) Claims 1 -4, 10-21, 23, 24,26,28, 31, 36, 38, 39

Claims 1 -4, 10-21, 23, 24,26,28, 31, 36, 38, and 39 are rejected as being obvious in view cited prior art.

Allowable claims 5-9, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32-35 and 37 have been amended. In particular, dependent claims 5, 22, 25, 27, 29, 32 and 37 have been written in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner (the remaining claims depend therefrom).

As a result of the amendments to the allowable claims, rejected claims 1-4, 10-21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31, 36, 38, and 39 have either been amended, or depend from an allowable claim that has been amended, rendering this objection moot.

3) Allowable Subject Matter - Claims 5-9, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32-35 and 37

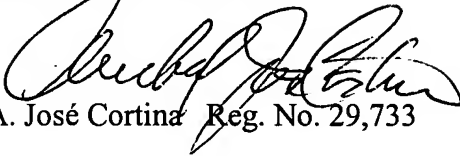
As noted above, claims 5, 22, 25, 27, 29, 32 and 37 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims, and their dependencies, are now in allowable form.

The amendment to claim 32 suggested by the Examiner has been made. The application is now in a condition for allowance.

4) Closing Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presently pending in this case are allowable and the Application is in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable disposition of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,


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